dressing materials and the First Aid Boxes are available with the Guards of all the trains. In addition Augmented First Aid Boxes with wider range of medicines, disposable medical material, etc. have been provided with the Train Superintendents / Pantry Car Managers of Rajdhani / Shatabdi Express Trains and on nominated long distance Mail / Express trains. Services of doctors travelling as passengers are also utilized to attend to passengers who are in need of urgent medical assistance. The front line staff *viz.* Train Superintendents, Train-Conductors, Travelling Ticket Examiners, etc. are also trained in rendering first aid. Trains can also make unscheduled halts, if necessary, at the stations en-route in extreme emergencies. The Station Masters have details of doctors, clinics & hospitals, both Government and Private, in the vicinity of the station, so that their services could also be requisitioned, in emergencies. In addition, a database has also been developed regarding availability of the non-railway medical facilities along railway tracks and at stations en-route, for providing emergency medical care to sick travelling passengers in the Trains.

Luxury rail services in Orissa and Jharkhand

2143.SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) proposes to tie up with Rail Europe to woo customers across various countries in regard to luxury rail services like Palace on Wheels available in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the details of such luxury trains being run in India; and

(d) what is the action plan of Government to run such trains in Orissa and Jharkhand to improve the economy of these backward regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Indian Railways is operating 'Palace on Wheels' and 'Heritage on Wheels' in association with Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, 'Deccan Odyssey' in association with Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation and 'Golden Chariot' in association with Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation, respectively.

(d) The luxury tourist trains are introduced at the instance of respective State Governments/State Tourism Corporations. There is no such proposal from the State Governments of Orissa and Jharkhand.

Upgradation of RPF

2144.SHRI B. J.PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to upgrade the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in view of the increased terrorist threat to the rail network in the country;